

***Being Logical*, D.Q. McInerny**
English 11 Summer Reading
Portfolio Project

Now that you have finished reading *Being Logical*, it's time to practice applying some of the principles and skills discussed in the book in the interest of: 1) increasing your knowledge of logic as a discipline; 2) challenging you to be an organized thinker; 3) engaging your creative and analytical capacities; 4) connecting the concepts from this introduction to critical writing.

Complete each of the following tasks on a separate sheet of paper, starting a new document for each task. For tasks that are section-specific, it is very likely that you will need to review/re-read the sections that cover the concept you are practicing.

If you are having difficulty, do not go straight to Google and put whatever seems to work. (Your teacher also has access to Google...) Try re-reading or doing some additional research, but do not attempt to submit work that is not your own.

Portfolio Tasks:

Complete 5 of the 7 tasks below. Everyone must complete task 4, and task 6 or 7.

1) Terms: define ten (10) of the following terms from the reading in 6-12 of your own words. Then use it in a sentence that demonstrates your comprehension of the term.

[ambiguity, argument, categorical statements, conditional arguments, conjunctive arguments, cynicism, evaluative statements, fallacies, gray areas, indirect evidence, inductive arguments, objective facts, ontological truth, premises, statements, subjective facts, syllogistic arguments, vagueness]

2) First Principles of Logic: compose a creative dialogue between two characters demonstrating your understanding of the first principles of logic as described on page 25. This dialogue should not exceed 3 typed pages, single or double spaced.

3) Distinguish Among Causes: choose four (4) objects and list each of that object's "causes" beneath it with causes labeled (page 35).

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4) Definition by Genus and Specific Difference: define ten (10) “everyday” terms by genus and specific difference—your list must include 2 abstract nouns and 2 verbs (page 37-...)

5) Syllogistic Arguments: write four (4) original, self-contained, valid syllogisms using terms of your choosing (3 sentences/statements per syllogism—syllogisms do not need to relate to each other).

6) Illogical Thinking: find an essay/article in print or online that is motivated by and/or exhibits illogical thinking. Write a detailed paragraph (10-14 sentences) explaining the “source” of illogical thinking in the author (as described in the sections of Part Four). Your analysis may focus on one of the sources or it may require you to address multiple sources of illogical thinking. Attach a copy of the essay or at least a major section with your analysis.

7) Fallacies: compose an essay on the topic of your choosing that employs several examples of poor reasoning, i.e., informal fallacies. Your mock essay must commit eight (8) of the 28 fallacies listed in Part Five of the book. You must commit 8 different fallacies in the course of your essay. You may commit the same fallacy twice for style, but such instances will only count for one occurrence. Label fallacies in parentheses at the end of the sentence in which the fallacy was committed.

Other Specifications

Portfolios must be turned in bound in a 3-hole folder (with “brads”) or a binder of some sort.

Tasks must be completed on a word processor, with the number and title of the task serving as the title of the document. Devote a page to each task. Front/back printing is encouraged. Cover pages are nice, too.

Due Date: at the beginning of class the final meeting of the first week of school